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The attached is the lead story in today's Star.

Korea's Secret Code Broken by U.S.

Diplomatic Messages to Seoul Suggest Hill Payoffs

By Richard G. Zimmerman

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Evidence suggesting that at least 10 present members of Congress accepted cash payments from a South Korean ambassador was obtained by the National Security Agency after diplomatic codes used by the Korean embassy here were intercepted and broken by agency cryptologists.

According to sources in the intelligence community, the information on the alleged payoffs, which was being transmitted to Seoul in the early

1970s by then-Korean Ambassador Kim Dong Jo, has been supplied to Leon Jaworski, special counsel to the House ethics committee. It is primarily on the basis of the NSA intercepts that Jaworski is insisting that Kim be forced to return to the United States to testify in the Korean payoff scandal.

HOUSE ETHICS committee sources say the only way any sitting members of the House will be deeply implicated in the scandal is if Kim testifies.

Jaworski refused to comment yesterday on the report that the evidence he obliquely alluded to during a hearing Monday had come from the NSA's cryptology section. He said he has not even told members of the committee the source of the potentially explosive evidence, nor has he named the suspected members of Congress.

At Monday's hearing, Jaworski referred only to "information that we

cannot now disclose" which indicates cash payments were offered by Kim and accepted by several unnamed congressmen.

Jaworski is reluctant to publicly use the NSA evidence for two reasons, one source speculated.

First, he does not want to be in the position of disclosing that the NSA has broken Korea's diplomatic code and has been monitoring the Korean embassy here — even though at-

tempts to monitor and decode diplomatic messages is a common practice in most world capitals. Korea, after all, is still considered a major U.S. ally and monitoring its diplomatic messages would not be considered a friendly act.

SECOND, THERE IS evidence that other Koreans involved in the alleged payoff scandal, such as Tong-sun Park and Hancho Kim, tended to exaggerate the scope and importance of their activity on Capitol Hill when reporting to superiors in Seoul. Thus

Kim's intercepted messages involving alleged payoffs to House members cannot be accepted at face value until he is questioned in detail by committee investigators.

There is compelling evidence that Kim attempted to pass the proverbial plain white envelopes stuffed with \$100 bills to House members.

A former employee at the Korean Embassy has testified that in 1971 he chanced upon Kim while he was stuffing two dozen envelopes with

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